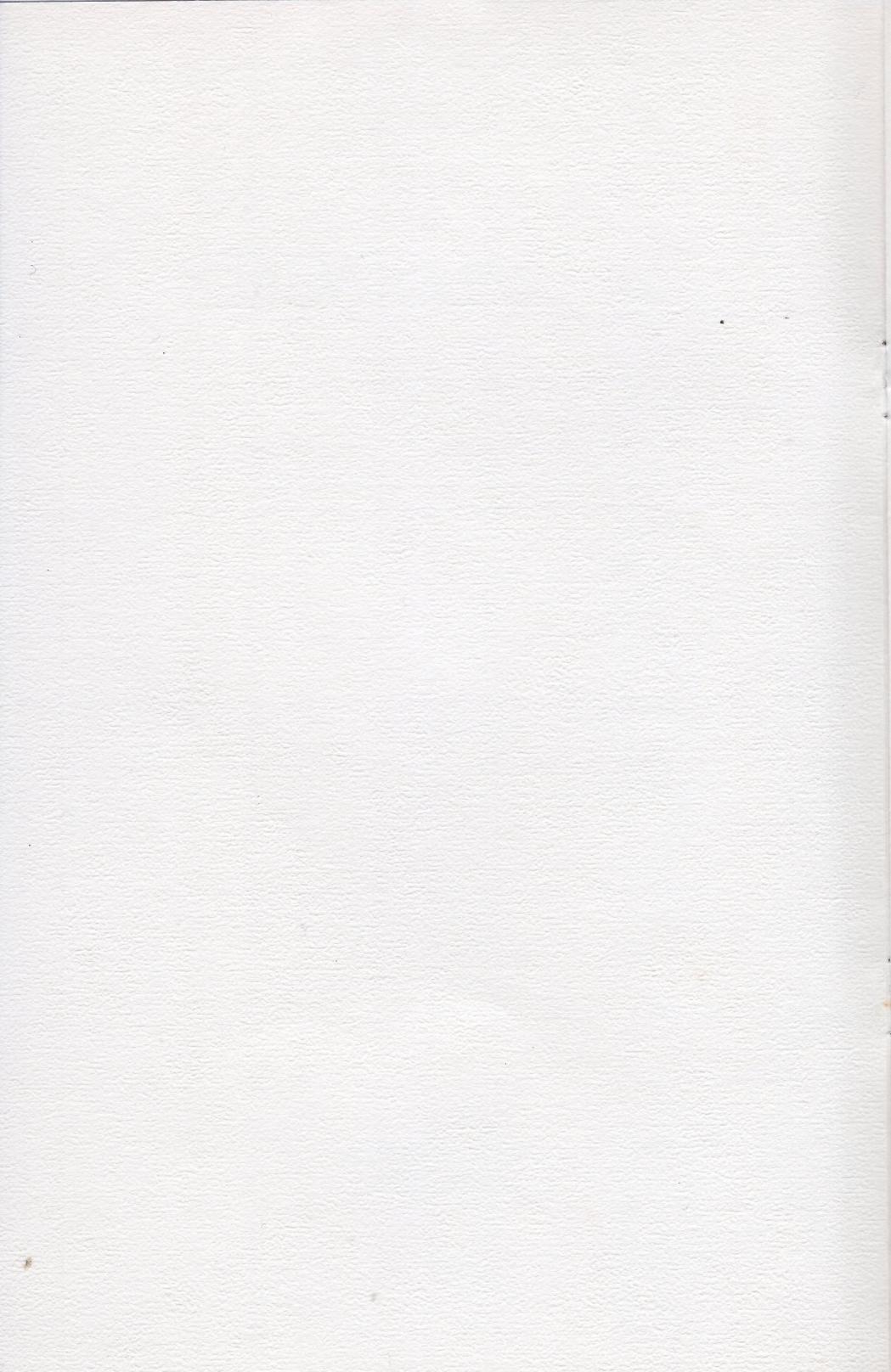


The LEADSTACKER

NUMBER FIFTEEN
APRIL, 1986



BACK IN DECEMBER I wondered aloud in *The Leadstacker*, what became of Ralph Polk and through a lead provided by Ted Conover, have confirmed that Mr. Polk died several years ago. A nice letter from Michael Kenny at Bennett Publishing, the last publishers of Polk's books, told me of Mr. Polk's death. According to Mr. Kenny, Polk retired to Arizona and was doing some sort of mission work with Indians. Mr. Kenny did not know the whereabouts of Mr. Polk's son, Edwin, but suggested I try contacting the owner of Bennett Publishing, Macmillan Publishing. I have yet to do so, but promise I will.

Mr. Kenny also told me that Macmillan still had some of Mr. Polk's books in stock and gave me a toll-free number to call. When I called, I was told that *The Practice of Printing* was out of print and there were no plans to reprint it, however, they did have copies of *Elementary Platen Presswork*. The price was \$10.64 and I could charge it on my VISA or Mastercard, so I did.

Elementary Platen Presswork is a small book (144 pages) but full of sound information. The chapter on make-ready is especially good. If you're interested in having a copy in your library, that toll-free number at Macmillan is 800-257-5755. Have your credit card ready.

So Ralph Polk passed from this world without me thanking him personally for efforts in educating young printers. Hopefully, some of his other students did take the time to do so. Or maybe Mr. Polk is in a position to *know* the admiration I feel for him. If so, "Thanks, Ralph."

BY WAY OF two discussions carried on through the mails, I have begun a project that may interest many of my readers. As most of my readers know, I have a shop large enough to contain my madness of collecting equipment (for now). A couple of letters from Nils Young have made me consider the plight of the "bedroom" printer, and a letter from Wilbur Doctor got me thinking about a more conservative approach to typography. Therefore, here's my idea: build a compact, *portable* print shop that can produce the widest range of items possible, from business cards to books. Now here's where I need help from my readers. Many of you have had years of experience with compact shops; give me some suggestions on how to get the most out of a very limited space. If your experience has taught you some tricks, please write and tell me about them.

Now for the limitations. Everything must be portable. By this I mean capable of being carried by two people. The press will be a 6 x 9 Sigwalt. The type cases will consist of ten California cases, four double cap cases, and four open cases. The budget will be basically unlimited, but within reason. I will not have a titanium press built or type cast with aluminum.

I need your recommendations on type faces and sizes to be selected, decorative material, rule, spacing, and other equipment that might be needed. I would like advice about ways to store and/or transport equipment and supplies.

The final result of this research will be the actual assembly of this ideal shop. This project will be well documented with photographs and a series of articles

in *The Leadstacker*, or if successful enough, maybe a small book. Hopefully, the shop might be exhibited at conventions eventually.

|| SELDOM SEE Acme Type Foundry mentioned as a supplier. I can't understand why; they offer a good selection of type and also equipment and supplies. Bruce Oldstyle, Goudy Oldstyle, Della Robbia, and Homewood are just a few of the many styles shown. You'll also find a good selection of Monotype borders and handy packets. Equipment and supplies include line gauges, furniture, plasticases, CMC presses, chemicals, and they may be the only place in the country where one can buy composing rule sets. I just received some letterpress ink they offer, (Cardinal brand) and am testing it on this issue of this publication. If you're interested in their catalog, write to:

ACME TYPE FOUNDRY
1720 NORTH MARSHFIELD
CHICAGO, IL 60622

There's no charge for their catalog.

|| IN AN EARLY *Leadstacker*, I requested any information about printing museums and the response wasn't exactly overwhelming. But now Robert Oldham has done me, and anyone else who likes to visit places with old printing equipment, a tremendous favor. Bob has published a book, *Museums With Printing Exhibits*, which lists hundreds of such places. The book is typewritten and has $32, 4\frac{1}{4} \times 5\frac{1}{2}$ inch pages and shows an enormous amount of work just in compiling all the information. Each museum is listed alpha-

betically and includes the address, hours and admission price if known, and most important, a short description of the equipment. If you would like a copy, send \$5 to:

ROBERT OLDHAM
334 WHITE OAK CREEK ROAD
BURNSVILLE, NC 28714

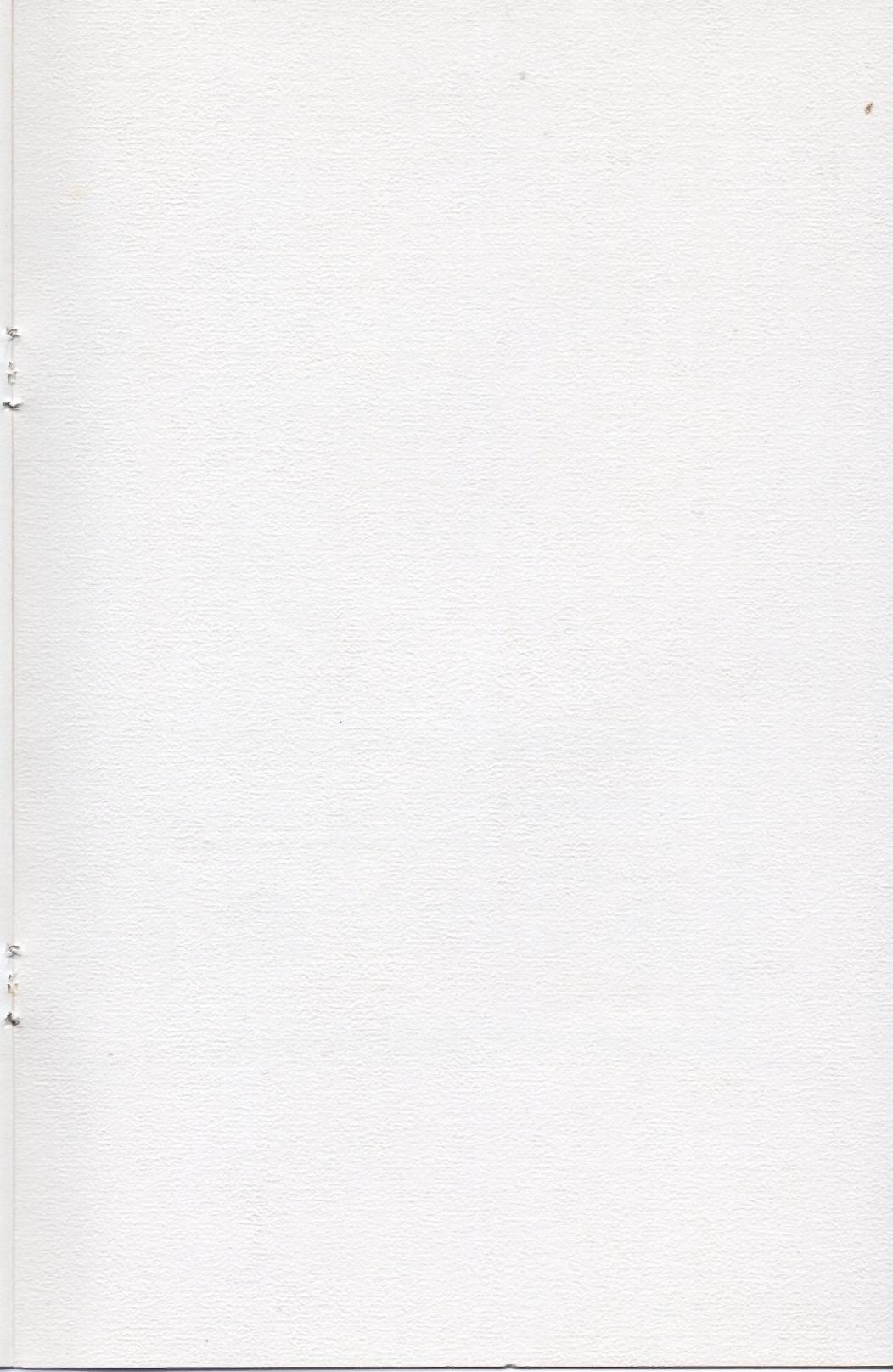
A FEW SELECTED QUOTES

Mr. Woodruff, my employer, being an honest and sober man, the majority of the people are his bitter enemies, and he has frequently been threatened. About a month ago, three worthies got into such a fury, owing to a piece published in the Gazette, criticising the conduct of the Secretary, that they threatened to anhilinate all the printers; and one of the judges of the Supreme Court swore that he would pulverize every printer in the Territory in less than a month.

Hiram Whittington to his brother in 1827. Whittington was printer for William Woodruff, publisher of the *Arkansas Gazette*.

To destroy flies.—Strong green tea, sweetened well, and set in saucers about the places where they are most numerous, will attract and destroy them. This plan is much to be preferred to the use of those horrible fly-papers, which catch the poor insects alive, cruelly torturing them whilst starving them to death.

The National Encyclopaedia of Business and Social Forms, 1881.



THE LEADSTACKER is the medium by which John Horn demonstrates his typographic acrobatics. Your comments are welcome.



No. 553

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